dated August 7, 1996 has come to the attention of the Government of India, Department of Electronics.

The Department of Electronics has a number of projects which would help creation of infrastructure for information networking as well as for creation of information data base in particular relating to technologies applicable to rural and social sectors. These projects relate to computer literacy promotion in Schools, Farmer Information System, Computerisation of Land & Water Management, Spatial Information System, Geographic Information Resource Centre, Audio-Visual Media to create awareness in Rural Masses, Applied electronics for farmers & agriculture for promotion of Information Technology and instruments in agriculture and agri-marketing sectors etc.

Construction of Industrial hotel complex by DDA

3927. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority propose to construct an Industrial Hotel Complex comprising 11 new 5 Star and 4 Star hotels in Vasant Vihar area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the DDA embarking upon hotel construction in the context of experience of ITDC-Hotels going into losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. DDA proposes to develop International Hotel Complex in Vasant Vihar area consisting of five sites for 4 Star hotels and six sites for 5 Star hotels. All the hotel sites will be disposed of as per the existing policy.

(c) As per the estimates of the Ministry of Tourism there are only 7500 hotel rooms available against the requirement of 17000 hotel rooms leaving a shortage of about 9500 hotel rooms.

Since the hotels will be constructed in the private sector on the sites to be allotted by DDA, the question of losses for DDA on account of construction of hotels does not arise.

India Habitat Centre

3928. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the original concept behind setting up of India Habitat Centre, New Delhi;

(b) whether there is at present a wide divergence between original concept and the final outcome; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) A statement is enclosed (*See* below)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement

Concept behind setting up of India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

The India Habitat Centre is a private society, set up in 1987, registered under the Society Registration Act to deal with habitat and habitat related issues of national and international concern. The main objectives of India Habitat Centre Society as recorded in the Memorandum of Association are:—

(a) Develop an integrated physical environment in which various professions and institutions dealing with different facts of habitat and habitat related environmental issues would function, interact and attempt to resolve habitat related problems in a coordinated manner.

(b) Promote awareness in regard to habitat related environmental issues including water, air, noise and water pollution, engery and

its conservation, water and human waste management and such other matters.

(c) Promote better urban and rural settlements relevant to the Indian social, cultural and economic context and related to the life style of its people.

(d) Inculcate better awareness and sensitivity in regard to all aspects of creative human activity including the significance of art in habitat.

(e) Document all relevant information pertaining to habitat; human settlements and environmental issues.

(f) Advise and if needed, assist the Government in the formation and implementation of policies relating to habitat and human settlements.

(g) Promote education, research training and professional development on habitat and human settlement and environment related issues.

(h) Organise and promote conferences, seminars, lectures, public debates and exhibitions in matters relating to habitat, human settlements and environment.

(i) Offer awards, prizes, scholarships and stipends in furtherance of the objectives of the Centre.

(j) Cooperate and collaborate with other national or international institutions in the furtherance of the objectives of the Centre.

2. IHC is a private autonomous organisation and receives no funding support from the Government. The centre is managed by a Governing Council drawn from among its membership. The project is still under implementation.

Identification of earthquake prone areas

3929. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the earthquake prone areas in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to set-up seismological observatories at these places;

(d) if so, the steps/measures taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the seismic zoning map published by Bureau of Indian Standards, the country has been divided into five seismic zones. Zone V is the most vulnerable to Earthquakes while the Zone I is the least. Zone V covers areas in Jammu and Kashmir. Himachal Pradesh, U.P. Hills, Rann of Kutch, North Bihar, entire NE region and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Zone IV largely covers the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Union Territory of Delhi, North UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Rest of the country falls under seismic zones III, II and I which are comparatively less seismic.

(c) to (e) A network of seismological observatories is already functioning in these areas. New seismological observatories have been set up recently at Latur (Maharashtra), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Sahibganj (Bihar), Machilipatam (Andhra Pradesh), Karaikal (Pondichery)